

Application No. 10/649,242

Docket No.: 29939/03015

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A laundry basket, comprising:
a bottom wall with an outer periphery;
a contiguous sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the bottom wall and defining an interior of the laundry basket; ~~and~~
a top portion of the sidewall forming a substantially peripheral lip; and
a portion of the peripheral lip transitioning into a first handle on a portion of the
~~contiguous sidewall and including a first~~ having a grip and a first knuckle guard disposed spaced outward from the ~~first~~ grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket, the grip and the knuckle guard disposed substantially level with the lip.

2. (original) The laundry basket of claim 1, wherein the contiguous sidewall includes a first, second, third and fourth sidewall extending up from the bottom wall, the first and second sidewalls being opposite from each other, the third and fourth sidewalls being opposite from each other.

3. (original) The laundry basket of claim 2, wherein the contiguous sidewall is substantially rectangular, and wherein the first and second sidewalls are relatively longer than the third and fourth sidewalls.

4. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 2, wherein the first grip handle is disposed on the first sidewall, and further comprising:

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a second grip operatively connected handle attached to the second sidewall, and a the ~~second handle including a second grip and~~ a second knuckle guard disposed outward from the second grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

5. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 4, further comprising:

a third grip operatively connected handle attached to the third sidewall and ~~including a third grip and~~ a third knuckle guard disposed outward from the third grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

6. (original) The laundry basket of claim 1, wherein the contiguous sidewall includes a concavely arched sidewall adapted to bear against the user.

7. (original) The laundry basket of claim 6, wherein the contiguous sidewall further includes a first, second, and third sidewall.

8. (original) The laundry basket of claim 1, the first handle including a first side opening in the contiguous sidewall, the first grip being formed as a portion of the contiguous sidewall above the first side opening.

9. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 1 ~~claim 8~~, wherein the first knuckle guard is disposed on the side of the contiguous sidewall opposite the interior of the basket.

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10. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 1, wherein the first grip is disposed inwardly from the contiguous sidewall into the interior of the laundry basket.

11. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 10, wherein the first knuckle guard is formed as part of the contiguous sidewall.

12. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 11, wherein the sidewall includes at least one vent.

13. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 1, wherein the first knuckle guard is a bar ~~spaced from and encompassing one side of the first grip.~~

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14. (currently amended) A laundry basket, comprising:

a base including an outer periphery, the base defining a base plane;

a sidewall ~~first sidewall, a second sidewall a third sidewall, and a fourth sidewall each~~

extending up from the outer periphery of the base, defining an interior of the basket;

a first grip operatively coupled to handle formed on an upper end of the first sidewall;
~~and including a first grip and~~

a first knuckle guard spaced ~~disposed spaced outward~~ from the first grip in a direction
generally parallel to the base plane and away from the interior of the basket. ; and

~~a second handle formed on an upper end of the second sidewall opposite the first handle, the second handle including a second grip and a second knuckle guard disposed spaced outward from the second grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.~~

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 14, wherein the first knuckle guard is a bar ~~and the second knuckle guard are bars spaced from and encompassing one side of the grips.~~

17. (canceled).

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18. (new) A portable container, comprising:

- a base including an outer periphery;
- a sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the base and having a top edge, the sidewall defining an interior of the container;
- a rim disposed on a top edge of the sidewall and extending laterally outward away from the interior of the container;
- a grip operatively coupled to the sidewall and disposed adjacent the top edge; and
- a knuckle guard spaced away from the first grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket and substantially level with the first grip, the knuckle guard being defined at least in part by a portion of the rim.

19. (new) The container of claim 18, wherein the rim includes a lip extending outward from the sidewall and a edge extending down from the lip, the edge at least in part forming the knuckle guard.

20. (new) The container of claim 14, further comprising a second grip formed on an upper end of the sidewall opposite the first handle, and a second knuckle guard disposed spaced outward from the second grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

21. (new) The container of claim 20, further comprising a third grip formed on an upper end of the sidewall, and a third knuckle guard disposed spaced outward from the third grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.